

**Message Information**

Date 05/09/2009 09:54 PM
From nswcsibt@aol.com
To LisaP Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
"Peggy Shepard" <peggy@weact.org>; "Elizabeth Yeampierre"
<elizabeth@uprose.org>; Terry Wesley/R2/USEPA/US@EPA; "Region 2
cc Director Suzanne Mattel" <symattel@gw.dec.state.ny.us>; "Warren McKenzie"
<rcsi1@verizon.net>; "Dee Vandenburg" <SITAINC@aol.com>; "Peter
Washburn" <Peter.Washburn@oag.state.ny.us>; "Gavin Kearny"
<gkeamey@NYLPI.ORG>; "Klm Gaddy" <kgaddy@cleanwater.org>
Subject Staten Island, NY/ EJ Community, EPA Superfund Site; formerly Seduttos/
National Lead Industries

Message Body

Dear EPA Administrator Jackson:

My name is Beryl Thurman. I am the Executive Director for the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc. You and I actually meet recently at your Port Newark Press Conference. I gave you one of our Environmental Justice booklets 'Staten Island's Gold Coast 5.2 miles from St. George to Arlington'.

I'm writing to you about one of the contaminated sites in the booklet. It's the former Sedutto's Ice Cream Factory site pages 18 & 19 of the booklet.

The NY Region EPA met with my organization and other civic leaders on Thursday, April 2, 2009. We were told that in December of 2008, the EPA found very high levels of lead on the site and that a sub contractor doing a City Sewer Project had migrated some of that lead contamination off site and through the community. I already knew about the off site migration, as I had reported the use of the site being used as a solid waste holding station to our: City Councilman McMahon, now Congressman McMahon, NYC DDC, NYC DEP, the SI Borough President's Office and both of our north shore state representatives. I had also spoken to representatives of the EPA about the site. As a last ditch effort I even contacted DEC only to find out that it was a jurisdiction problem regarding the site. But it was DEC that came to our rescue by issuing a stop work order because the site was being used illegally as a solid waste station without proper permits. Even with the above being said, the site remained active from the spring of 2008 until late fall of 2008.

Moving to present day...

The former Sedutto/National Lead Industries, John J. Jewett & Son's White Lead Company site has 2 MTA bus stops. One located in the front of the property at 2000 Richmond Terrace, SI 40 & SI 90 buses, and the SI 43 bus and driver rest stop on the side of the site at Park Avenue between Richmond Terrace and Church Street.

Residents have repeatedly asked the NY EPA and MTA to temporarily relocate these two bus stops. The Port Richmond residents are overwhelmed with the news that has come not only from this site, but also from the news that our beloved Veteran's Park also has elevated levels of lead and arsenic contamination probably from past pesticide use. Followed by reports that our older "affordable" housing stock also may have given north shore residents some of the highest lead levels on the island and possibly in the City.

The NY EPA will be in the community for a very long time remediating this site and possibly a former radioactive Manhattan Project site, formerly owned by Archer Daniel Midlands Company.

The NY EPA has said that the Sedutto's site has been contained and that the surrounding side walks and streets have been cleaned, so standing at the bus stops poses no risk to residents.

And no one is questioning the EPA's science or technology. What the residents are simply saying is that they don't need a constant reminder of a situation that is adding to the daily stresses of their lives while living in an Environmental Justice Community. Temporarily relocating/suspending bus services from these two locations during the remediation would give peace of mind and comfort to the residents.

One of the most common oversights in government in dealing with EJ Communities are government agencies not recognizing or understanding the mental stress these residents are under daily and adding to it.

It would help the NY Region EPA to establish better relations, as well as encourage trust within the Staten Island EJ communities, EJ Environmental organizations and our partners by granting this simple request.

We believe that the new EPA under your leadership is looking to establish these types of partnerships in EJ Communities and with EJ organizations, unlike how these communities have been dealt with in the past. Both the NY Region EPA and NYCT MTA need to improve upon their relationships with the Environmental Justice Communities this is a start. Showing kindness and compassion are not just words in a book. They should be acted upon frequently and openly especially with our nation's most vulnerable communities.

Please tell the EPA NY Regional Administrator to tell the MTA to relocate these two bus stops at the request of the Port Richmond Community and NSWCSI for the purposes of better community relations.

I can be reached at nswcsibt@aol.com, or at 347-827-8126

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beryl Thurman, Executive Director, The North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc.

www.nswcsi.org

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